

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)**

**Date: 20 February 2013**

**Subject: Local HealthWatch – HealthWatch Leeds**

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|--|------------------------------|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?<br>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**1 Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) on the arrangements for establishing a local HealthWatch organisation in Leeds from April 2013.

**2 Main issues**

2.1 At its meeting in January 2013, the Scrutiny Board requested an update on the progress towards establishing a local HealthWatch organisation in Leeds from April 2013, including any transitional arrangements necessary to ensure a smooth transition from Leeds Local Involvement Network (LINK) to the new organisation.

2.2 Attached at Annex A is a report from the Director of Adult Social Services that:

- Updates the Scrutiny Board on the procurement of a local Healthwatch organisation for Leeds (to be known as Healthwatch Leeds).
- Advises the Scrutiny Board of the next steps for the transition from the Leeds Local Involvement Network to Healthwatch Leeds.
- Proposes arrangements for the development of the relationship between the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care), the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families), the Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch Leeds.

2.3 Appropriate officers from Adult Social Care will be in attendance to present the report and address any queries identified by the Scrutiny Board.

2.4 In addition, representatives from the Touchstone Consortium have also been invited to attend the meeting to

- Help discuss the new (emerging) local HealthWatch arrangements;
- Provide an overview of the initial work to be done during the mobilisation period; and,
- Commence the dialogue about how Leeds HealthWatch and the Scrutiny Board might work together.

#### Arrangements for effective local HealthWatch

- 2.5 As outlined in the report from the Director of Adult Social Services, in July 2012 the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) undertook a `Scrutiny Development Area` project with the Scrutiny Board in relation to the emerging roles of Scrutiny Board and local Healthwatch and how an effective relationship can be established and maintained. The notes from that project are attached at Appendix 1 of the report from the Director of Adult Social Services.
- 2.6 In addition, the CfPS have produced a guide `10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising arrangements for effective local Healthwatch`. The guide, attached as Annex B for information, is designed to help Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees develop a range of high-level questions around arrangements for local Healthwatch. The guide aims to cover all the relevant issues, however it not be relevant to ask all the questions listed and/or to follow the sections sequentially.

#### Other considerations

- 2.7 Members will be aware (in broad terms) that the report of the full public inquiry into the failings at the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust was published on 6 February 2013. The inquiry, led by Robert Francis QC, looks at the role of commissioning, supervisory and regulatory bodies and why serious problems at the trust were not identified and acted on sooner.
- 2.8 While the formal Government response is awaited, which may include subsequent legislative changes, from the summary the CfPS have identified the following key recommendations affecting Scrutiny directly:

***Rec 47*** *The Care Quality Commission should expand its work with overview and scrutiny committees and foundation trust governors as a valuable information resource. For example, it should further develop its current 'sounding board events'.*

***Rec 119*** *Overview and scrutiny committees and Local Healthwatch should have access to detailed information about complaints, although respect needs to be paid in this instance to the requirement of patient confidentiality.*

***Rec 147*** *Guidance should be given to promote the coordination and cooperation between Local Healthwatch, Health and Wellbeing Boards, and local government scrutiny committees.*

***Rec 149*** *Scrutiny committees should be provided with appropriate support to enable them to carry out their scrutiny role, including easily accessible guidance and benchmarks.*

***Rec 150*** *Scrutiny committees should have powers to inspect providers, rather than relying on local patient involvement structures to carry out this role, or should*

*actively work with those structures to trigger and follow up inspections where appropriate, rather than receiving reports without comment or suggestions for action.*

**Rec 246** *Department of Health/the NHS Commissioning Board/regulators should ensure that provider organisations publish in their annual quality accounts information in a common form to enable comparisons to be made between organisations, to include a minimum of prescribed information about their compliance with fundamental and other standards, their proposals for the rectification of any non-compliance and statistics on mortality and other outcomes. Quality accounts should be required to contain the observations of commissioners, overview and scrutiny committees, and Local Healthwatch.*

- 2.9 While the formal Government response to the Francis Inquiry is awaited, which may include subsequent legislative changes, and the Scrutiny Board may wish to give more detailed consideration to the implications of the Francis Inquiry at an appropriate time in the future, these details may usefully help inform the discussion around local HealthWatch at this time.

### **3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and discussed at the meeting and determine any appropriate further scrutiny activity at this time.

### **4 Background papers<sup>1</sup>**

None used

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<sup>1</sup>The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.